



STATE OF MICHIGAN
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

RESUBMITTED: March 8, 2004
April 12, 2004

Memorandum to the Natural Resources Commission:

SUBJECT: Elk Hunting Season Dates and Management Units

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

The proposed elk hunting season dates for 2004 are designed to maintain the herd within the objective of 800-900 animals during the winter and address the concern of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in the elk herd. Based on previous herd estimates, modeling, and an ongoing research project, it is believed that the elk herd is within the objective. Field observations by Department staff and a continued low level of agricultural nuisance complaints support this belief. Recreational hunting is the primary population control method employed. A December elk hunt has been held for 20 consecutive years. The recommended dates for the upcoming December and January hunt periods are the same as 2003, adjusted for the calendar.

A third (highway kill) and fourth (hunter harvested) bovine TB positive elk were discovered in 2003. Regulation changes intended to reduce the number of elk that occur east of highway M-33 will be continued. It is theorized that elk east of M-33 are at a higher risk of infection due to the proximity of the core bovine TB area. A proactive approach to curtail the spread of TB throughout the elk herd is a reduction of elk numbers in this area. The quotas for Elk Management Units (EMU) C and E will reflect that approach. The quotas for the optional January elk hunt will be dependent on the number and location of elk harvested and observed during the December hunt period.

The establishment of a county-wide 911 system in Montmorency County resulted in all county roads having road name signs erected. Two roads representing the EMU boundary between Unit A and Unit B have changed names. Township, range, and section were added to Units A and B definitions to clarify location of intersections. The definition of Unit B did not list Otsego County, although the boundary definition included a portion of Otsego County. The wording of Unit X was clarified to match other management unit definitions. The boundary definition in the Wildlife Conservation Order for these three Elk Management Units reflects these changes.

Keith J. Charters-Chair ? Mary Brown ? Bob Garner ? Gerald Hall ? John Madigan ? William Parfet ? Frank Wheatlake

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING ? P.O. BOX 30028 ? LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7528
www.michigan.gov ? (517) 373-2329

Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information only at the April 2004 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. This item appeared in the April 26, 2004, Calendar and is eligible for approval on May 7, 2004. We are now recommending that it be acted upon at this meeting.

Rebecca A. Humphries, Chief
Wildlife Division

Alan Marble, Acting Chief
Law Enforcement Division

George E. Burgoyne, Jr.
Resource Management Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

K. L. Cool
Director

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 6 of 2004

Under the authority of sections 40107 and 40113a, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being sections 324.40107 and 324.40113a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources ordered that effective May 8, 2004, the following sections of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.1 Elk open season, hunt periods; season limit.

Sec. 3.1. (1) The open season for taking elk shall be those days as specified below for the following hunt periods:

Hunt Period	Open Season
1	December 7 to December 14
2	January 15 to January 19, only in elk management unit(s) where additional harvest is deemed necessary to meet elk management objectives.

(2) The season limit shall be 1 elk per license.

12.500 "Elk management unit A" defined.

Sec. 12.500. "Elk management unit A" means that area of Montmorency and Otsego counties bounded by a line beginning in Montmorency county at the junction of Rouse road and highway M-33 (southwest corner of section 14, T31N R02E), then southerly on highway M-33 to Kellyville road (southwest corner of section 35, T31N R02E), westerly on Kellyville road to its end (southeastern corner of section 32, T31N R02E), continuing westerly on the north edge of sections 4, 5, and 6 (also known as north boundary of the third correction line along sections 4, 5, and 6, T30N R02E), to Manier road (east side of section 1, T30N R01E), southerly on Manier road to county road 620 (also known as Old State road, section 12, T30N R01E), westerly on county road 620 to county road 495 (also known as Meridian road, section 7, T30N R01E), northerly on county road 495 to Johnson crossing grade (northwest corner of section 31, T31N R01E), westerly on Johnson crossing grade into Otsego county to Gibbs road (also known as Sparr road, east side of section 28, T31N R01W), westerly on Gibbs road to Marquardt road (south edge of section 29, T31N R02W), northerly on Marquardt road to the main stream of the Pigeon river (center of section 29, T31N R02W), northerly along the Pigeon river to old Vanderbilt road (southwest corner of section 25, T32N R02W), easterly on old Vanderbilt road to the Black river at McKinnon's bend (east side of section 32, T32N R01W), easterly, southerly, and northerly along the Black river into Montmorency county to Blue lakes road (also known as Barber bridge road or Main river bridge road, at section 21, T32N R01E), easterly on Blue lakes road to East Branch road (also known as south Black river road, east side of section 22, T32N R01E), southeasterly on East Branch road to county road 622 (northwest corner of section 6, T31N R02E), southerly on county road 622 to Rouse road (section 13, T31N R01E), easterly on Rouse road to the point of beginning.

12.501 "Elk management unit B" defined.

Sec. 12.501. "Elk management unit B" means that area of Cheboygan, Montmorency, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties bounded by a line beginning in Montmorency county at the junction of Rouse road and highway M-33 (southwest corner of section 14, T31N R02E), then northerly on highway M-33 into Presque Isle county to Milligan highway (east side of section 6, T33N R02E), westerly on Milligan highway into Cheboygan county to Comstock road (no turn, road name change), westerly on Comstock road to Black river road (east side of section 2, T33N R01E), northerly on Black river road to Buzzels road (north side of section 2, T33N R01E), westerly on Buzzels road to Centerline road (section 34, T34N R01E), northerly on Centerline road to the south edge of section 21, T34N R01E, westerly on the south edge of section 21 to the west edge of section 21, T34N R01E, northerly on the west edge of section 21 to Tucker road (southeastern corner of section 17, T34N R01E), westerly on Tucker road to Brady road (western side of section 17, T34N R01E), northerly on Brady road to highway M-68 (section 6, T35N

R01E), westerly on highway M-68 to Osmun road (west side of section 1, T34N R01W), southerly on Osmun road to Walker road (section 11, T34N R01W), westerly on Walker road to the west side of section 16, T34N R1W, southerly on the west side of section 16 to the south side of section 17, T34N R1W, westerly on the south side of section 17 to Pigeon river road and Montgomery road (section 19, T34N R1W), southerly on Montgomery road to Webb road (section 5, T33N R01W), westerly on Webb road to the Pigeon river (north side of section 8, T33N R01W), southerly along the Pigeon river into Otsego county to old Vanderbilt road (southwest corner of section 25, T32N R02W), easterly on old Vanderbilt road to the Black river at McKinnon's bend (east side of section 32, T32N R01W), easterly, southerly, and northerly along the Black river into Montmorency county to Blue lakes road (also known as Barber bridge road or Main river bridge road, section 21, T32N R01E), easterly on Blue lakes road to East Branch road (also known as south Black river road, east side of section 22, T32N R01E), southeasterly on East Branch road to county road 622 (northwest corner of section 6, T31N R02E), southerly on county road 622 to Rouse road (section 13, T31N R01E), easterly on Rouse road to the point of beginning.

12.506 "Elk management unit X" defined.

Sec. 12.506. "Elk management unit X" means all areas in Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Oscoda counties and those portions of Cheboygan, Montmorency, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties not included in elk management units A, B, C, D, and E as defined in sections 12.500, 12.501, 12.502, 12.503, and 12.508.

Issued this 7th day of May, 2004.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Keith J. Charters, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

K. L. Cool
Director